

C. Remarks

The claims are 147, 152-157, 179 and 180, with claim 147 being the sole independent claim. Claim 147 has been amended to address section 112, first paragraph, and new matter rejections. This amendment is clearly supported by Example 16. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

The specification is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 132 and all claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly introducing new matter into the application. The Examiner has alleged that the specification does not support a limitation “a carbon fiber having a specific area of at least 10 m²/g and a void ratio of at least 50%.” Specifically, the Examiner alleged that the combination of a specific surface area **and** a void ratio of at least 50% is not disclosed in the application as filed.

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have deleted the recitation regarding a void ratio being at least 50%. A carbon fiber having a specific area of at least 10 m²/g is supported by Example 16. Applicants note that a “black lead” fiber mentioned in Example 16 is a form of a carbon fiber.¹ Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the above rejections.

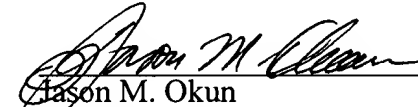
Applicants again respectfully request that the Examiner initial and return PTO-1449 forms, which were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 22, 2001, to indicate that the documents cited therein have been considered.

Wherefore, expedient allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

^{1/} Applicants direct the Examiner’s attention to the attached printout from The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia (Columbia University Press., 6th ed., 2004), which states that “black lead” is one of the synonyms of graphite.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

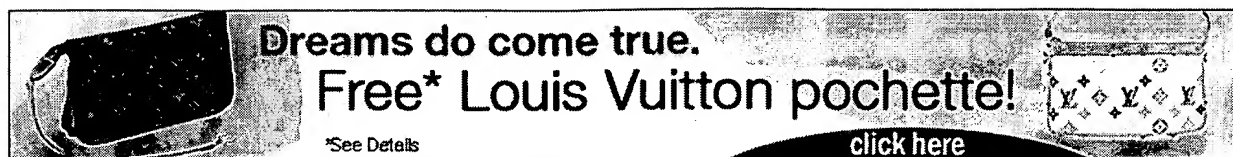
Respectfully submitted,



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Encyclopedia

graphite

[grăfīt]

[Pronunciation Key](#)

graphite, an allotropic form of carbon, known also as plumbago and black lead. It is dark gray or black, crystalline (often in the form of slippery scales), greasy, and soft, with a metallic luster. It is a good conductor of electricity and does not fuse at very high temperatures or burn easily. It occurs in nature in grayish-black masses, massive or crystalline, and is obtained in various parts of the world—in the United States (massive) in Nevada, Michigan, and Rhode Island and (crystalline) in Alabama and North Carolina; in Brazil; in the British Isles and on the Continent; and in Sri Lanka, Madagascar, and Siberia. It is also prepared artificially by treating hard coal in the electric furnace, a process discovered by E. G. Acheson. The uses of graphite are wide and diverse. The so-called lead of pencils is in reality a mixture of graphite with clay. Crucibles required to withstand high temperatures and also electrodes are commonly made of also in stove polish, in some paints, and as a lubricant.

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